

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CASTLE WARD



Annual Reports

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For 1963

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
1963

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.H.V., D.P.H.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Social Services of the Rural District in the year 1963.

The steady increase in the population was maintained. It rose by 1,630 above that of 1962. This was due to further private building in the residential estates, to the continuing growth of Newbiggin Hall Estate and to the commencement of the Whorlton Grange Estate. The population increase in the last nine years has been 13,063.

No major variation took place in the Vital Statistics for the year. The number of live births increased by 38, the majority being female. The total number of deaths showed an increase of 62 on the figures for the previous year, but this was entirely due to a larger number of deaths in the chronic hospitals and institutions. The actual number of deaths of residents remained similar to those of the previous year. Together with the increase in population this resulted in a rise in the excess of births over deaths, i.e. the natural increase in population, a continuation of the trend over the last few years.

The infant mortality rate was slightly higher, there being twelve deaths of infants under one year of age compared with eleven in 1962. Prematurity and congenital defects accounted for ten deaths, but one was due to an infective cause, unusual these days with the ever increasing scope of the antibiotic drugs. The field of research in causes of congenital abnormalities is indeed a complex one and much further study will be required.

Reviewing the individual causes of death, vascular diseases of the nervous system showed an increase of 50 in the number of deaths of residents. Deaths from heart and circulatory diseases generally rose slightly, those from coronary disease increasing by twelve. Five deaths from coronary disease and angina occurred in the younger middle-age group of 45 - 54 years, conforming with the present trend of the disease.

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasm showed little change, but there were some differences in the sites involved. Those from cancer of the stomach were double the number for last year and those from lung cancer increased by three. On the other hand, deaths from cancer of the breast decreased by three and those of "other sites" by five.

Deaths from influenza rose to three from one the previous year. These deaths were in the older age group of 75 years and over and occurred during a severe winter. A welcome feature was the drop to eight in the number of deaths from respiratory diseases generally, chiefly bronchitis.

The number of fatal motor accidents was four, compared with five last year; two were in the course of employment. It is encouraging to report that deaths from other accidents, industrial and home, dropped to nine from fourteen in 1962. There were four fatal accidents in the hospitals to elderly patients already suffering from serious chronic diseases, compared with three last year. Of the remaining five, three were due to falls of elderly persons, one to barbiturate poisoning and one to fatal burns.

Propaganda and education on the prevention of accidents in the home is very necessary. It is encouraging that this year there was no fatal home accident to a young child.

One death from suicide was registered as in 1962, a decrease from the numbers registered in 1961, 1960 and 1959.

There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis as in the previous year. The incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis rose to seven notifications from three in 1962 ; there were 13 in 1961. A welcome decrease occurred in the number of notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, i.e. to one from three the previous year. Inward transfers of tuberculous patients to the Rural District declined to ten in 1963 from fifteen in 1962. In view of the steady flow of inward transfers to the Newbiggin Hall Estate since its inception, the number being 56 at the end of the year, it is hoped during 1964 to conduct a special survey by the mobile unit of the mass-radiography service and to get as many people as possible on the estate to attend.

Notifications of infectious diseases during the year showed the expectant bi-ennial increase in the incidence of measles. This disease accounted for the majority of the notifications, the months of highest incidence being February and March, but sporadic cases occurred until November. It is hoped that a suitable vaccine against measles may be available in the near future as trials are already in being. Whooping Cough notifications were again rather high due to insufficient or incomplete protection. Notifications of scarlet fever also rose this year, being chiefly very mild cases.

It is extremely satisfactory that for the first time for some years no notification of Sonne dysentery occurred.

The standard of housing in the Rural District is reasonably satisfactory and continues to rise both by improvement or demolition, the former being very considerably helped by statutory or discretionary grants. The building on Newbiggin Hall Estate of over 200 houses heated by gas or electricity has raised the problem of the disposal of personal refuse. Several meetings were held with the Newcastle upon Tyne City Authorities and consideration given to this and other problems on the estate. After a small survey on the subject had been undertaken suggestions were put forward by your Officials for consideration.

The welfare of old people was kept very much in mind during the year. The Co-ordinating Committee set up under Circulars 7 and 18/62, consisting of representatives of the Health and Welfare Committees of the County Council and of the four District Councils with representatives of the Voluntary Organisations, held regular two monthly meetings and considerable progress towards effective co-operation was made. In this field the Council's project of bungalows for the aged at Stamfordham with a Warden in charge is a considerable step forward.

The large volume of meat inspection done by the Public Health Inspectors was continued during the year, a total of 8,771 carcasses being examined.

May I express my appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their active interest and support in the work of the Department and to the Clerk and other Officials of the Council for their co-operation. My thanks are due to Mr. Strachan, Chief Public Health Inspector for his zeal and customary high standard of work and also to his Deputy, Mr. Taylor, to Mr. Hardy, the Additional Public Health Inspector and also to the clerical staff of the Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

POPULATION

The Rural District of Castle Ward comprises 130 square miles of territory. On the North and West the district is distinctly rural in character, but becomes urbanised on the East and South. Indeed, the South side with the new estate of Newbiggin Hall, built by the City and Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne to house some of their overspill population, may be described as heavily urbanised.

The Darras Hall Estate at Ponteland and Melton Park and Brunton Park Estates on the extreme Eastern side are private residential districts. During the year new building took place at Darras Hall and at Whorlton Grange, a new private estate to the South. There was also some sporadic private building.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 28,220, an increase of 1,630 on that of the previous year. The population of the Rural District has steadily increased each year since 1954, the total increase now being 13,063. The bulk of this increase is due to the housing of some of the overspill population and there has also been the development of Brunton Park, Melton Park, Darras Hall Estates and now the Whorlton Grange Estate.

BIRTHS

The total number of births registered in the year was 474 (241 male and 233 female), an increase of 38 on those registered the previous year. This increase was almost entirely in the number of female births, there being 32 more registered than in the previous year.

Numbers of illegitimate births were similar in both years, namely 13 and 14 respectively.

There were 7 still births compared with 6 in the previous year, and 10 in 1961.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 16.63 for the Rural District and 18.2 per thousand population for England and Wales. Figures for the previous year were 15.42 for the Rural District and 18.0 for England and Wales.

The still birth rate for the district was 14.8 and that for the country generally was 17.3 per thousand live and still births. The rates for 1962 were 17.77 for the district and 18.1 for the country.

DEATHS

527 deaths (262 male and 265 female) were registered in the course of the year, an increase of 62 on those for the previous year when 465 deaths (248 male, 217 female), were registered.

Deaths of long term residents, i.e. those with a stay of six months or over in the institutions in the district, viz. Thomas Taylor Homes, St. Mary's Hospital, the Ponteland Hospital and Birney Hill Hospital totalled 286 compared with 219 in 1962. In order to obtain a clearer idea of the causes of death of residents of the Rural District, these deaths are excluded from the observations on causes of death which follow later, as

approximately 97% of the hospital deaths are those of people residing outside the district. The deaths, therefore, of residents of the district numbered 241 in 1963, compared with 246 in 1962.

The corrected death rate, which takes account of the considerable number of hospital deaths by means of a comparability factor, was 11.03 per thousand for this district and 12.2 for England and Wales. The rates for 1962 were 13.05 and 11.9 for the country.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths of residents (deaths of long term residents in institutions being again excluded) was 233 compared with 190 in 1962 and 212 in 1961.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were twelve deaths (10 male, 2 female) of infants under one year of age during the year. Seven of these occurred within a few hours or days of life and within the first week, four being due to prematurity and two to grave congenital defects. One was due to a cerebral haemorrhage following birth. Two infant deaths occurred under four weeks of age, both being due to serious congenital abnormalities. Three further deaths occurred between four weeks and one year of age, two being due to functional abnormalities and one to acute bronchiolitis. This latter death is the only one due to an infective cause that has been registered since 1959. Although infection as a cause of infant death has almost been eliminated, there remains the 'hard core' of peri and neonatal deaths, and their extremely complex causes have yet to be resolved.

As has been repeatedly expressed, constant care and further research in ante and per-natal work must continue.

The infant mortality rate for the Rural District was 24.6 per thousand live births and that for England and Wales was 20.9. The figures for the previous year were 25.2 per thousand births (eleven deaths of infants being recorded) and that for the country was 20.7.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was no death of a mother attributable to pregnancy or childbirth in the year. The last such death was in 1961.

The maternal mortality rate for the country was 0.28 per thousand live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

An increase in the number of deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system was evident, there being 50 deaths of residents in this group compared with 38 in 1962 and 35 in 1961.

Classifying deaths from heart and circulatory diseases in one group, the number of deaths of residents (hospital deaths being excluded) was 86, compared with 78 in 1962 and 83 in 1961. Included in this grouping are deaths from coronary disease and angina which rose to a total of 44 deaths of residents, compared with the same number in 1962, 32 in 1961 and 28 in 1960. Deaths from coronary disease have kept to a high level these last few years. It is worthy of note that five such deaths occurred in the 45 - 54 years age group.

Deaths of residents from Malignant Neoplasm numbered 44 compared with 42 in 1962 and 30 in 1961. The number of deaths from cancer of the stomach rose sharply to 9 from 4 the previous year. Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchus increased among residents to a total of 12, compared with 9 in 1962.

As far as can be ascertained, most of the eight male patients were moderate smokers of from 15 to 20 cigarettes per day. Ten deaths occurred between the ages of 54 and 68 years and three between 73 and 89 years of age.

Deaths from cancer of the breast decreased by three and those from malignant neoplasm of other sites, chiefly abdominal, decreased by five.

There were three deaths from influenza, two being in the age group of 75 years and over. Last year one death from influenza was registered.

A welcome decrease showed in the number of deaths of residents from respiratory diseases generally to a total of 23 from 31 in 1962 when there was a sudden increase in deaths in this classification.

The number of deaths from bronchitis decreased by five, deaths from pneumonia remained consistent in both years.

There were four deaths, all male, from motor vehicle accidents. Two were sustained in the course of work, one as a result of jumping from a lorry and being run over and the other a fractured skull as a result of being hit by a motor van while engaged in road works. One death was of a boy of eight years who received multiple injuries when his pedal cycle collided with a motor car. The other death was of the driver of a car which ran off the road and collided with a lamp standard. In the previous year there were five fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Deaths from all other accidents numbered nine. Four fatal accidents occurred in the hospitals, all in persons between 76 and 87 years of age who were already suffering from serious organic diseases and had accidental falls, sustaining fractures of the femur. Of the fatal accidents among residents of the district, a male of 38 years was trapped in a burning building and suffered extensive deep burns. The other three deaths were of elderly persons who had accidental falls at home. The other death (male, 37 years) was due to barbiturate poisoning ; there was insufficient evidence as to how or why this occurred.

In 1962, deaths from other accidents had unfortunately risen to a total of fourteen, of which three were hospital deaths.

There was one death from suicide as in the previous year.

II.—TUBERCULOSIS

One death from respiratory tuberculosis was registered in the year, that of a female of 50 years. There was one such death in the previous year. A death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis also occurred, that of a female of 86 years. The death rate for the district was 0.045 and for England and Wales 0.063 per 1,000 population.

There was an increase in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis ; seven notifications (5 male, 2 female) were received compared with three in 1962, 13 in 1961 and 3 in 1960. The increase was in the 15-35 years age group where there were four notifications (2 male, 2 female).

A decrease took place in the number of notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis to one (male), from three notifications (2 male and 1 female) the previous year. The trend of recent years has been a decrease in both the mortality and incidence of this disease, but when relatively small numbers are involved, even a single remission is noteworthy.

The number of inward transfers of persons suffering from the disease to the Rural District has been noticeable of recent years particularly those to the Newbiggin Hall Estate from Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1963, ten cases (5 male, 5 female) were inwardly transferred. This brings the total number of inward transfers to the Rural District to 151 since 1962, nearly all being cases of pulmonary tuberculosis ; the total transferred to the Newbiggin Hall Estate was 56.

The Chest Clinics at New Bridge Street and at Elswick Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, attend to patients from the Rural District. The patients are under the care of the Senior Chest Physicians with whom close co-operation as regards care and after-care, including housing, has been maintained for many years. The Chest Clinic deals with the surveillance of family contacts and the Health Visitors with home visiting. B.C.G. vaccination is given to children at risk at the clinics or in the schools with the parents' consent.

As in former years, particular attention was paid by the Council to the housing needs of tuberculous patients and their families, but, of course, patients who are inwardly transferred usually come to the new housing estates.

During the year, nineteen cases of tuberculosis were removed from the register ; five were outwardly transferred, eleven recovered and three died.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board visited the district in August. The previous visit had been in the late summer of 1961. Appended below is a table of the number of persons X-Rayed and referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation.

	Number X-Rayed		Referred to C.C.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Ponteland (23/13th Aug.)..	69	92	2	1
Brunswick Village	17	33	—	2
Hazlerigg } 14th Aug.	52	79	3	2
Dinnington (15th Aug.) ..	36	49	1	—
	<u>174</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL		<u>427</u>		<u>11</u>

On the previous visit 220 persons attended the unit. In addition, the unit pays periodic visits to hospitals and institutions in the district. There was one such visit to the Netherton Training School in November, when 114 persons, including trainees and staff were X-Rayed. These particulars are kindly supplied by the Secretary of the Unit.

III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

There was a total of 580 notifications of acute infectious fevers compared with 61 in 1962 and 735 in 1961. The large increase in notifications in both 1963 and 1961 was due to outbreaks of measles.

MEASLES

During the year notifications of measles amounted to a total of 531. The rise in incidence began at the end of 1962 and continued to the latter part of 1963, the peak months being January and February 1963. After that there was a steady decline to the end of November. This increased incidence was expected as it was the usual bi-cennial year of increase. It occurred mainly in Ponteland, Melton and Brunton Parks and Newbiggin Hall Estate. The total number of cases in the previous outbreak in 1961 was 715.

SCARLET FEVER

In 1962 it was satisfactory to be able to report that no case of scarlet fever was notified. This year however, there was an unusual rise to 13 cases notified. Eleven cases occurred at Newbiggin Hall Estate and were in separate families. The disease was uniformly of a mild type.

WHOOPING COUGH

The number of notifications of whooping cough in the year was 28 compared with 26 the previous year. Eighteen cases occurred at Dinnington, nine of them being in four families.

The illness was generally of a very mild type and occurred mainly in children who had received a primary course of vaccination as infants, but had not received a refresher dose before contracting the disease.

The new immunisation schedule which institutes a refresher dose some 18 months to two years after the primary course should gradually eliminate this.

SONNE DYSENTERY

No notification of this disease occurred during the year. Several suspected cases were investigated on behalf of the family doctors, but were found to be negative. There were five notifications in 1962 and 4 in 1961.

FOOD POISONING, ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND DIPHTHERIA

No case of food poisoning, acute poliomyelitis or diphtheria was notified during the year.

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA

A slight increase took place in the number of notifications of primary pneumonia to six from four in 1962 and seven, in 1961. The Winter was a severe one and there were some cases of influenza in the district as well as common colds and upper respiratory infections. The General Practitioners of the district as for many years, kept a close watch on the situation. There were three deaths from influenza compared with one the previous year.

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SALMONELLOSIS

In September, information was received that a five year old child was being discharged from hospital after treatment for an infection due to salmonella typhi-murium. On investigation, the stools of the child were found to be still positive and in addition, the stools of the young sister were also positive, the parents' stools being negative. The younger child was subsequently admitted to Walkergate Hospital with clinical illness and the rest of the family were kept under surveillance. No link with food could be established. The stools of the younger child cleared quite quickly, but the older child's stools took much longer to clear.

DISPOSAL OF SOILED DRESSINGS & DISPOSABLE PADS FOR INCONTINENT PATIENTS IN HOUSES WITH NO OPEN FIRE

The use of disposable pads by the District Nurses throughout the County commenced this year. The pads are proving useful, efficient, more comfortable for the patient and, of course, the amount of laundering of bed linen is considerably reduced. The Council agreed to provide paper sacks for the reception of these dressings and for the Cleansing Department to arrange for their disposal.

IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION — SECTION 47

No formal action was necessary under this section.

BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD — SECTION 50

No formal action was necessary under this section.

V.—HOUSING

Throughout the year the building of new houses has continued. The largest number of dwelling units has been provided by private persons. A large proportion of this development took place at Whorlton Grange. In all, 216 houses were erected for private ownership.

The City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne continued building two and three storeyed houses in pursuance of the development of the Newbiggin Hall Estate. A further 91 dwellings were provided during the year. This brings the total of occupied houses on this estate to approximately 1,300. Of this number there are over 200 houses whose means of heating etc., is by gas or electricity.

Experience has shown that in these houses there is a problem of disposal of what can be best described as personal refuse. In this connection meetings have taken place with the Newcastle upon Tyne City Authorities when the possibility of the provision of incinerators was considered. This matter has not yet been completely resolved. In the meantime the provision of paper sacks for the disposal of midwifery debris has been instituted and so far this would appear to be working smoothly.

Arising out of the second survey of houses throughout the district there still remains a small number which require action for either improvement or demolition. The overall picture is satisfactory. Reference to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector will show that advantage continues to be taken of both Discretionary and Standard grants towards the cost of improving and raising the housing standard.

VI.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of inspection of food premises in the district, numbering 162, are contained in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

All the food establishments, i.e. grocery and provision shops, butchers establishments, cafes, snack bars, canteens, ice-cream purveyors, public houses etc., are regularly inspected. In all cases particular attention is directed to personal hygiene. It is only by the co-operation of the food-handler that contamination of food is avoided.

As in previous years, no notified illness among residents in the district was traced to any of the food or catering premises.

During the year 13 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle upon Tyne for examination. There is one manufacturer of ice-cream whose premises are situated in the district ; the premises have been visited regularly and a satisfactory standard of hygiene maintained.

VII.—WATER SUPPLY

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company is the official water undertaker to the Council. Their water mains are situated to enable any part of the 130 square miles which comprise the district to be supplied with an adequate and wholesome water service.

VIII.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As I have stated in previous Annual Reports, the problem of atmospheric pollution does not affect the Rural District to anything like the extent experienced in the more urbanised and industrial centres.

During the year under review a contributing source of atmospheric pollution in the form of the burning spoil bank serving the pit at Hazlerigg ceased on the closing down of the colliery workings.

Although this spoil bank and the spoil bank at Brunswick Village are no longer on fire, there now exists a nuisance from the clouds of fine ash which occur during the removal of the slag by a firm of haulage contractors. It appears that water sprays are not effective, but the contractor has agreed to operate the workings only when the wind direction is favourable to the village.

XI.—WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

It is estimated that during the next twenty years the number of people aged sixty five and over in the country is expected to increase by 1,823,000 or 32.5%. The increase in those aged seventy five and over will be even greater, i.e. 40.5%. This is a development to which all local authorities must obviously give their attention and help. One practical service for the elderly is to provide them with a sufficient number of suitably sized houses. It is pleasing to record as a slight impact on the problem that at Stamfordham the construction four bed-sitting-room flats for the elderly was nearing completing towards the end of the year. The appointment of a part-time warden to assist the old aged pensioners has been under consideration.

The Castle Ward Rural District Old People's Welfare Committee on which are representatives of all the Parishes in the district continues to provide a common ground for discussion on all matters concerning the

welfare of old people. The Committee under the Chairmanship of Councilor A. Rotherford, J.P., Chairman of the Council, also includes representatives of voluntary organisations operating in the district. During the year a proportion of the money allocated to the Committee by the Council was given towards 50% of the cost of providing food containers in connection with a Meals on Wheels service for old people living on the Newbiggin Hall Estate. The remaining 50% of this cost was contributed by the Northumberland County Council Welfare Department.

The scheme which is kindly operated by members of the W.V.S. is proceeding smoothly. Of all services for old people, especially those who are house bound and in many cases living on their own, the provision of a ready cooked meal is one of the most appreciated.

The Old People's Welfare Committees of Newbiggin Hall and Woolsington and Ponteland are now firmly established. Both Committees are doing admirable work for their respective areas.

The Council's decision to provide a Recreation Centre in Ponteland is to be applauded. There are seven "Over Sixty" Clubs in the district.

The chiropody service continued throughout the year and domiciliary visits were arranged as necessary.

The Northumberland Rural Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee through their Secretary, M. A. Trotter, and Organiser, Miss M. Thompson, continue to give guidance and help to all organisations concerning the welfare of old people throughout the district.

X.—HEALTH EDUCATION

Talks have been given to various Organisations on matters relating to food hygiene, food poisoning and accidents in the home by members of the staff of the Department.

Posters on matters appertaining to personal hygiene were freely distributed to all establishments where food is either sold or prepared for sale and posters on Smoking and Health exhibited at suitable places.

XI.—NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Details under this heading are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

MORTUARY SERVICE

A mortuary at Gosforth serves the Northern and Eastern parts of the Rural District and another, at Newburn, the Southern and Western parts. Both mortuaries are of up-to-date design, and financial arrangements for their use have been made with the respective Councils.

XII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE DISTRICT

The details under this Section have been supplied in the report of Mr. E. W. Strachan, Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

- (i) Neurosis and Rehabilitation Hospital, Birney Hill.

- (ii) Burnholme, Stannington, attached to the Northgate Hospital, Morpeth.
- (iii) The Ponteland Hospital.
- (iv) St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington (treatment of mental disorders).
- (v) The Stannington Children's Hospital, Stannington.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES

- (i) The Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington (Northumberland County Council).
- (ii) The Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (aged people) (Northumberland County Council) (Part III Accommodation).

(c) NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Services 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the care of the buildings under service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

1. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

There are five nurse/midwives, three general nurses and three district midwives practising in the district. They are as follows :—

Nurse/Midwives

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 4 Cheviot View, Brunswick Village.
Telephone : Wideopen 3151.
- (2) Nurse Cockburn, 44 Edgehill, Darras Hall, Ponteland.
Telephone : Ponteland 2600.
- (3) Nurse Brown, 5 The Green, Ponteland.
Telephone : Ponteland 2324.
- (4) Nurse Learney, Wooler Cottage, Stannington.
Telephone : Stannington 242.
- (5) Nurse Turnbull, 31 Aquila Drive, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
Telephone : Wylam 2213.

General Nurses

- (1) Nurse Ashforth, 4 Hayes Walk, Wideopen.
Telephone : Wideopen 2353.
- (2) Nurse Barclay, 34 Ridgely Drive, Ponteland.
Telephone : Ponteland 3052.
- (3) Nurse Jackson, Palmerston Cottage, Northumberland Gardens, North Wallbottle. Telephone : Lemington 674763.

District Midwives

- (1) Nurse Crook, 2 Broadfield Walk, Newbiggin Hall Estate.
Telephone : Newcastle 869182.
- (2) Nurse Graham, 13 Langleeford Road, Newbiggin Hall Estate.
Telephone : Newcastle 869511.
- (3) Nurse Durham, 2 Beaumont Terrace, Westerhope.
Telephone : Newcastle 869283.

Mr. A. Ward, 57 Halton Drive, Woodlands Park North, Newcastle upon Tyne, 3. Telephone : Wideopen 2484 is a male nurse and on the County Staff.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There are nine Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in the Rural District, namely :—

Dinnington Village, Brunswick Village, Brunton Park, Hazlerigg, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Settlement, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Ouston.

Regular sessions for the care of babies and children to 5 years of age, for expectant and nursing mothers, immunisation, orthopaedic, eye examination, speech therapy and other special sessions are also held.

By the end of the year the new clinic at Ponteland was nearing completion and will, it is expected, prove of great benefit to the mothers and children, and to special groups and altogether be an asset to the village. Mothers and children from the Newbiggin Hall Estate attend the clinic at Westerhope which already serves the village of Westerhope. It is hoped that the erection of a new clinic on the Estate will not be long delayed, as the sessions tend to be crowded.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The central depot for the County at Wideopen covers the Eastern part of the Rural District. The Throckley Depot covers the South and Western part of the district and the Northern part is covered by the Morpeth ambulances. The County Council agreed to the appointment of additional Driver-Attendants throughout the county to improve ambulance cover for emergency and stretcher cases. Three additional Driver-Attendants were appointed at Wideopen and two at Throckley. During the year, the maintenance scheme was extended by the addition of one skilled motor mechanic and one semi-skilled worker following the decision that the maintenance and servicing should be extended to cover the whole of the ambulance fleet. In July, the old system of radio control was replaced by a new one based at the central control at Wideopen. The telephone number at Wideopen was changed to Wideopen 4141. Approval was given for the erection of a new rest room and store.

4. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS PROPHYLAXIS

The use of the three antigens of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus in one injection is now almost universal practice. Vaccination and immunisation is carried out as a routine measure at the Child Welfare Clinics and by the General Practitioners. Refresher doses being also given at the appropriate times and also some at the schools.

A total of 412 (396) primary injections against diphtheria were given which consisted of 391 (384) to children aged 0—4 years and 21 (12) to children aged 5—15 years. In addition, 730 (282) reinforcing injections were given. The figures in brackets indicate those for the previous year.

The figures for immunisation against whooping cough and tetanus were very slightly smaller being a total of 395 primary courses and 395 reinforcing injections. These figures for the previous year gave a total of 374 children who received primary immunisation ; of these 356 (327) were under one year of age.

The level of diphtheria immunisation continues to be high in the Rural District and throughout the county. The level of whooping cough vaccination is slightly lower. Constant efforts are made to keep up the standard of immunisation, especially to encourage parents to have their

children done at the appropriate times to ensure this. Occasionally, for various reasons reinforcing injections are postponed and this accounts for some of the very mild cases of whooping cough.

The graph showing the incidence of whooping cough and the number of children vaccinated against it each year has been continued and shows the general fall in incidence with the increase in the number of children protected.

Protection against tetanus is of special importance in a district such as this and parents certainly have welcomed the introduction of the triple antigen.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccinations against smallpox were at a more usual level this year following the panic rush of 1962. There were 120 primary vaccinations of which 80 were under one year of age. Re-vaccinations numbered 320 of which 228 were 15 years of age or over. Last year the figure was 812, mainly in the older age groups. The figure this year is lower than the usual average, but this is probably accounted for by the large numbers of the previous year.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

This continued steadily throughout the year and in the South Area which comprises this Rural District and the Urban Districts of Gosforth, Newburn and Prudhoe, a total of 4,140 children and persons have had a complete primary course of the Oral vaccine and 6,731 a reinforcing dose following primary courses of Oral or Salk vaccine. A total of 24,187 children born between 1943 and 1963 and 10,414 other persons have received a complete primary course of vaccination with Salk vaccine. 28,350 persons have received a third injection of Salk vaccine since the inception of the campaign and 7,972 a fourth injection.

5. HOME HELP SERVICE

In the course of the year 148 persons (145) in the Rural District received the services of a home help for varying periods. 101 (85) were aged and infirm people, 33 (40) confinements, 9 (16) acute illness, 2 (2) blind persons, 2 (2) cases of tuberculosis and one a problem family case. (Figures in brackets relate to 1962).

The number of old people served has increased steadily. In 1960 and 1959 the numbers were 75 and 58 respectively. This service is of very great value in helping old people to remain in comfort in their own homes as long as possible.

6. CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub-Committee as formerly, held regular two monthly meetings where the needs of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other chest and cardiac diseases were considered and help given in appropriate cases. The help is mainly in the provision of extra milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to hospitals, but also comforts which are not available from any official source can be provided.

7. NURSING CARE COMMITTEES

Only two voluntary Nursing Care Committees remain in the Rural District, Ponteland and Blagdon, Stannington. The South Area Health

Sub-Committee supplies items of nursing equipment, especially the larger and more specialized types and the District Nurses hold a stock of smaller nursing equipment for immediate use. The new clinic at Ponteland will contain a special store for nursing equipment which will be most useful. Appropriate cases are also considered by the Care and After-Care Committee.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Early in the year, following the issue of Circulars 7/62 and 18/62 by the Ministry of Health a Co-ordinating Committee was set up in the South Area consisting of some members of the Health and Welfare Committees of the County Council, members or representatives of the four District Councils and representatives of the Voluntary Organisations.

Regular two monthly meetings were subsequently held during the year and it was satisfactory to observe the progress made in a relatively short time and the enthusiasm combined with efficiency with which the organisations settled down to help. Particularly was this the case in connection with the inception of the Meals on Wheels service and of friendly visiting on the Newbiggin Hall Estate which, being a completely new estate inhabited by people suddenly transposed from a city to a rural housing estate with no outside amenities, provided a challenge to the Voluntary Organisations which has been successfully met.

A schedule of "Services Available. Voluntary and Statutory Welfare Services" was compiled and a copy sent to Doctors, nurses and hospitals. This was much appreciated.

CHIROPODY

A chiropody service for the handicapped and expectant mothers was commenced in July, 1960 throughout the county. It is also available to the elderly where facilities are not provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee, and domiciliary visits can be arranged through the Health Visitor.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area in acres	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population.. ..	28,220
Number of habitable houses	8,631
(including 228 not separately assessed)	
Sum represented by penny rate	£4,060
Rateable value	£983,022

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (leg)	241	233	474
Live births (illeg)	6	7	13
Still births	4	3	7
Deaths.. ..	262	265	527
Birth rate per 1,000 population			16.63
Still births per 1,000 live and still births			14.8
Death rate			11.03

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION :

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. 0.28

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births 24.6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA IN 1963

					Institutional			
ALL CAUSES.					Males	Females	Totals	Deaths
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	..	..	—	1	1	(—)
2.	Tuberculosis Other	..	..	—	1	1	(—)
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	2	—	2	(2)
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
8.	Measles	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
9.	Other infectious & Parysitic Diseases.			2	1	3	(3)	
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	..		10	1	11	(2)	
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung Bronchus			8	5	13	(1)	
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast..	..		—	6	6	(2)	
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	..		—	2	2	(—)	
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms..	..	..	18	10	28	(11)
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	—	—	—	(—)
16.	Diabetes..	..	..	1	—	1	(—)
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..			63	93	156	(106)	
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	40	24	64	(20)
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..		1	3	4	(—)	
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	46	61	107	(80)
21.	Other Circulatory disease	..	..	14	15	29	(18)
22.	Influenza	..	..	2	1	3	(3)
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	11	8	19	(12)
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	10	8	18	(7)
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system..			2	3	5	(—)	
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duedenum	..		2	—	2	(1)	
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..		—	3	3	(3)	
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	1	4	5	(—)
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	1	—	1	(1)
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..		—	—	—	(—)	
31.	Congenital Malformations	..	..	3	1	4	(—)
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			15	9	24	(10)	
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	4	—	4	(—)
34.	All other accidents	..	..	5	4	9	(4)
35.	Suicide	..	..	1	—	1	(—)
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	..		—	1	1	(—)	
					262	265	527	
							(286)	

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (per 1,000 Population).

					Births		Deaths	
					Castle Ward	England & Wales	Castle Ward	England & Wales
1940	..	..	13.1			15.1	8.3	14.3
1941	..	..	13.0			15.7	19.0	11.6
1942	..	..	15.9			16.3	10.1	11.6
1943	..	..	15.7			17.0	9.3	12.1
1944	..	..	17.5			18.1	12.6	11.6
1945	..	..	14.9			16.5	11.6	11.4
1946	..	..	17.2			19.6	10.7	11.5
1947	..	..	14.9			21.0	11.5	12.0
1948	..	..	15.4			18.3	10.9	10.8
1949	..	..	15.8			16.7	10.0	11.7
1950	..	..	15.6			15.8	10.4	11.6
1951	..	..	14.2			15.5	10.43	12.5
1952	..	..	13.8			15.3	17.05	11.3
1953	..	..	13.7			15.5	19.9	11.4
1954	..	..	15.5 ⁸			15.2	20.02	11.3
1955	..	..	16.4			15.0	17.89	11.7
1956	..	..	15.2			15.7	12.0	11.7
1957	..	..	16.3			16.1	10.1	11.5
1958	..	..	17.4			16.4	11.8	11.7
1959	..	..	11.1			16.5	10.03	11.6
1960	..	..	15.7			17.1	11.3	11.5
1961	..	..	15.8 ⁶			17.4	11.75	12.0
1962	..	..	15.4 ²			18.0	13.05	11.9
1963	..	..	16.63			18.2	11.03	12.2

INFANT MORTALITY RATES (per 1,000 Live Births)

					Castle Ward	England & Wales
1944	..	.	..	..	41.8	46
1945	..	..	..	..	50.9	46
1946	..	..	..	..	43.0	43
1947	..	..	..	..	41.0	41
1948	..	..	..	..	26.3	34
1949	..	..	..	..	13.4	32
1950	..	..	..	..	13.4	29.8
1951	..	..	..	..	19.2	29.6
1952	..	..	..	..	55.0	27.6
1953	..	..	..	..	51.3	25.5
1954	..	..	..	..	27.1	25.5
1955	..	..	..	..	28.6	24.9
1956	..	..	..	..	15.0	23.8
1957	..	..	..	..	20.4	23.0
1958	..	..	..	..	21.4	22.5
1959	..	..	..	..	17.7	22.0
1960	..	..	..	..	10.8	21.7
1961	..	..	..	..	16.67	21.4
1962	..	..	..	..	25.23	21.4
1963	..	..	..	..	24.6	20.9

INFANT MORTALITY 1963

Prematurity (3)	..	..	14 hours
			1 day
			1 day
Congenital heart disease (2) ..			6 days
			1 week
Convulsions .. .. .	..	..	1 day
Multiple Congenital Abnormalities .. ..	..	..	4 days
Cerebral Haemorrhage ..	..		4 hours
Hydrocephalus .. ..	..	..	2 weeks
Phenyl Ketonuria .. ..	..	..	3 months
Hypoglycaemia .. ..	..	..	6 months
Acute Bronchiolitis .. ..	..	..	4 months

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY TESTS

			Positive	Negative
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	—	3
Throat Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci			3	1
Specimens of Sputum for Tuberculosis ..	..		—	—
Gastric aspiration for Inoculation (Tuberculosis) .. .. .	..	..	—	—
Urine for Pus Cells and Culture .. ..	..	..	—	—
Stool Specimens for Dysentery .. ..	..	..	—	13
Stool Specimens for Other Pathogens ..	..		20	7
Nasal Swabs for Pertussis .. .. .	..	..	—	—
			23	24
			47	
TOTAL .. .. .	..	..

FOOD POISONING RETURN 1963**OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :**

Total Outbreaks .. Nil Total Cases Nil

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons Nil
 (b) Salmonella Organisms Nil
 (c) Staphylococci (including Toxin) Nil
 (d) Cl. botulinum Nil
 (e) Other bacteria Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks .. Nil Total Cases Nil

SINGLE CASES :

Agents Identified Nil

NUMBER OF DEATHS Nil

FOOD INVOLVED Nil

SALMONELLOSIS :

Total Outbreaks .. Nil
 Single Cases Two Due to Salmonella Typhi-murium.

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter		New Notifications		Inward Transfers		Number of cases removed from Register		Number of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.
March 31st, 1963—										
Males ..	96	12	—	—	1	—	2	—	95	12
Females ..	97	21	2	—	2	—	1	—	100	21
June 30th, 1963—										
Males ..	95	12	1	—	4	—	—	—	100	12
Females ..	100	21	—	1	—	—	—	1	100	21
September 30th, 1963—										
Males ..	100	12	2	—	—	—	7	—	95	12
Females ..	100	21	—	—	1	—	4	—	97	21
December 31st, 1963—										
Males ..	95	12	1	—	—	—	1	—	95	12
Females ..	97	21	1	—	2	—	2	—	98	21

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent 1963

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The following milk distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 :—

REGISTERED DISTRIBUTORS :

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.
Cramlington & District Co-operative Society Ltd., Brunswick Village.
Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10 Queensway, Brunton Park.
Mr. J. A. Herron, Woodside, Darras Hall.
Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Farm, North Gosforth.
Newcastle Co-operative Society, Cowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, 2 Grey Street, Brunswick Village.
Mr. H. Thompson, Hawthorn Cottage, Brunton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Throckley & District Co-operative Society Ltd., Hexham Road, Throckley.
Mrs. M. U. White, North Mason Farm, Dinnington.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960, responsibility for licensing the use of Special Designations (i.e. "Tuberculin Tested", "Pasteurised", "Sterilized") rests with the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. Milk sampling is now carried out by the County Health Inspector and the following samples were taken in this district during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	11
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	..	..	..	2
Pasteurised	..	..	..	17
				<hr/>
				30
				<hr/>

All samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

There are 162 food premises in the district as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	5
Butchers	..	..	10
Canteens (Industrial)	..	..	6
			<hr/>
			21
			<hr/>

Clubs	8
Food Manufacturers	2
Fried Fish Shops (1 mobile)	2
General Dealers (including grocers and greengrocers)	53
Hospital and Institution Kitchens	10
Public Houses and Off-Licenses	33
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack-bars	12
School kitchens and Dining rooms	16
Slaughterhouses.. .. .	5
	<hr/>
	162
	<hr/>

Of these premises 54 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the following purposes :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream ..	1
Sale of Ice-Cream	42
Manufacture of Sausage and Preserved Meats	11

A number of ice-cream kiosks and travelling shops operate in the district which are subject to supervision under the appropriate regulations.

(c) ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959.

Thirteen samples of ice-cream were taken for examination by the Public Health Laboratory, two manufacturer's samples and the remainder from retailers.

Results were as follows :—

Profesional Grade	I	10
„ „	II.. .. .	—
„ „	III	1
„ „	IV	2
		<hr/>
		13
		<hr/>

(d) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 — SAMPLING OF FOOD

The Northumberland County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority are responsible for sampling under this heading and 107 samples were taken in the Castle Ward area during the year. The following information has kindly been supplied by Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector, County Weights and Measures Department :—

All the samples were satisfactory with the exception of a sample of Cake Mix. The ingredients were not specified in descending order as required by the Labelling of Food Order.

Particulars of samples taken in the Castle Ward Rural District
for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

Apple and Strawberry Jam	Ham and Egg Spread
Apricot British Wine	Honey
Aspirin Tablets	Ice Cream
Beef Sausages	Icing Mix
Blackcurrant Drink	Instant Coffee
Bran Flakes	Instant Mashed Potato
Brandy	Lard
Butter	Lemon Curd
Butter Fruits	Lemon Jelly
Cake Mix	Lentils
Cannelloni	Macaroni Cheese
Cheese Spread	Malt Vinegar
Cherry Pie Filling	Milk
Chestnut Puree	Minced Beef with Mushrooms
Chopped Ham with Pork	Mince meat (in gravy)
Chopped Pork and Ham	Mixed Cereal with Fruit and Nuts
Cod Liver Oil	Old English Butter Drops
Cream	Piccalilli
Creamed Horseradish	Pineapple Juice
Creamy Toffee	Pork Sausages
Cut Mixed Peel	Prunes
Demerara Sugar	Rum
Dessert Topping Mix	Sage and Onion Stuffing
English Flower Honey	Sago Pudding
Extract of Malt with Cod Liver Oil	Salad Cream
Fresh Apple Sauce	Shredded Beef Suet
Fresh Double Cream	Steak Pie
Gin	Stewed Steak
Gin and Orange Sweets	Tomato Juice
Ginger Cordial	Turkey Supreme
Glace Cherries	Wincarnis Jelly
	Whisky

Number of samples taken (other than Milk) ..	80
Number of Milk samples taken (Formal) ..	23
Number of Milk samples taken at schools (In- formal)	4
	<hr/> 107

Number genuine .. 106 Number Unsatisfactory .. 1

PARTICULARS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLE

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
M.R. 689	List of ingredients not con-	Manufacturers agreed
Cake Mix	forming strictly to the re-	to amend their label.
(Orange Delight)	quirements of the Labelling	
C.W.S. Ltd.	of Food Order, 1963.	

(e) COMPLAINTS OF UNSOUND FOOD

During the year four complaints were received under this heading. Two of these concerned dirty milk bottles, one of tinned minced beef, and one of a foreign body in a carton of dripping.

The Health Committee's decision on these matters was as follows :—

In the case of the dirty milk bottles, the firms concerned were warned that should the offence be repeated there would be a distinct possibility of legal proceedings being instituted.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturers of a tin of minced beef which contained a foreign body, i.e. a large triangular flat bone. The case was heard at the Moot Hall Magistrates Court, but the Court held that there was insufficient evidence to link the actual sale of the tin concerned with the Defendants, or to show any "act or default" on the part of the Defendants in accordance with the Relevant section of the Act.

The fourth case, concerning the carton of dripping, in this instance it was decided to warn the proprietor of the establishment to make it impossible for any foreign matter to gain access into the cartons of dripping before the contents had become solidified.

(f) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned meat and offal is indelibly stained with green dye to prevent its being used for human consumption. It is collected at frequent intervals from the slaughterhouses for processing by a firm of glue and chemical manufacturers. A Payment is made to the Council for this and the sum of £162 was received for the year. Other unsound food is disposed of by burial on the Council's tips.

(g) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the district as follows :—

1. Mr. J. Anderson, North Grange Farm, Ponteland.
2. Mr. T. Bewick, Diamond Inn, Ponteland.
3. Crumlington & District Co-operative Society Ltd.,
Brunswick Village.
4. Mr. E. Lumley, Bridge End, Stamfordham.
5. Messrs. N. Wilson & Sons, West End, Stamfordham.

(Terminated 29th June, 1963).

Reference was made in last year's report to the preparation of plans for the erection of a new slaughterhouse on the Light Industrial Site, Ponteland. The private firm who are nominating this venture expected the premises to be in operation before the end of the year. This however, due to delayed delivery of certain items prevented its completion.

The new slaughterhouse is of up to date design and the "line system of slaughtering is incorporated. There is also space devoted to the manufacture and processing of meat and meat products.

Due to the delay in completion of the slaughterhouse it was found necessary to postpone the "Appointed Day" in connection with the implementation of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, the Slaughter of Animals Act (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter House Construction Regulations until 1st January, 1964.

The slaughterhouse at Stamfordham is in the course of being altered and improved to comply with the conditions of the new Construction Regulations.

Throughout the district 100% meat inspection is made of all meat slaughtered for sale for human consumption including ante-mortem inspection particularly in the case of casualty animals sent to the slaughterhouse for emergency slaughter.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

The above-mentioned regulations came into operation on 1st October, 1963. They require among other directions a 100% inspection of meat. As mentioned above it is pleasing to report that this has always been achieved in this district. The local authority may charge for the service with a maximum of 2/6d. for bovine other than a calf, 9d. per calf or pig and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat.

The regulations allow slaughtering on Saturdays and Sundays which necessitates the attendance of a Meat Inspector. This practice of the trade can hardly be reconciled with the present accepted five day week policy.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Normal Kill	1062	221	404	6326	372	8392
Casualties	22	48	13	280	16	379
Number examined	1091	269	417	6606	388	8771
CARCASES CONDEMNED WHOLLY OR IN PART :						
A. All Diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	(6) 16	(10) 26	(8) 18	(45) 91	(3) 10	(72) 161
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	270	99	7	164	34	574
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	26.21%	46.47%	5.99%	4.11%	11.45%	8.38%
B. Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	3	3
Percentage of number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.88%	0.03%
C. Cysticercosis :						
Whole Carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	3	—	—	—	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with cysti- cerci	0.37%	1.12%	—	—	—	0.08%

The number of casualties are shown in brackets and are included in the totals.

DETAILS OF MEAT AND OTHER ORGANS CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED, AND DISPOSED OF

FOR TUBERCULOSIS :

Pigs

Heads 3

FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES :

Bovine

Heads & Tongues	11	Abscesses 3, Actinomycosis 1, Bruising & Oedema 2, Congested Lymphatic Gland 1, Cysticercus Bovis 4.
Hearts 	11	Contiguous Abscesses 1, Cysticercus Bovis 2, Oedema 1, Pericarditis 7.
Kidneys	3	Contiguous Abscess 1, Nephritis 1, Retention Cysts 1.
Livers (whole) ..	116	Abscesses 11, Cirrhosis 85, Fatty Infiltration 1, Multiple Abscesses 5, Necrosis 1, Telangiectasis 13.
Livers (part) ..	127	Abscesses 2, Cirrhosis 125.
Lungs 	49	Abscesses 2, Congested Lymphatic Glands 1, Emphysema 4, Fluke Infestation 8, Oedema 1, Pleurisy 24, Pneumonia 9.
Thick Skirt ..	2	Contiguous Abscess 1, Pleurisy 1.
Beef 	368	Abscesses 3 st., Acute Peritonitis 15 st., Bruising 6½ st., Cysticercus Bovis ¼ st., Pleurisy 1½ st., Septicaemia 32 st., Severe Bruising 19 st., Severe Bruising & Oedema 201½ st., Sternal Abscess 4 st., Traumatism 57¾ st., Traumatism & Oedema 27½ st.
Carcases	1,298	Acute Enteritis & Oedema 1, Acute Mastitis & Oedema 1, Acute Septic Mastitis 1, Acute Peritonitis & Oedema 1, Acute Enteritis & Emaciation 1, Gangrene 3, Generalised Oedema 9, Generalised Oedema & Emaciation 14, Immaturity 1, Jaundice 1, Johnes Disease 6, Pathological Emaciation 4, Pyrexia 2, Septicaemia 8, Septic Arthritis 1, Septic Omphalophlebitis 1, Toxaemia 1, Traumatism & Generalised Oedema 2, Umbilical Pyaemia 1, Uraemia 1.
(60 including stones 24 casualties)		

Sheep

Livers 	121	Cirrhosis 7, Bacterial Necrosis 1, Fatty Infiltration 5, Fluke Infestation 44, Parasites 56, Pentastomes 8.
Lungs 	43	Parasites 4, Pneumonia 31, Strongylus sets Rufescens 8.
Mutton 	9	Abscess 1 st., Pneumonia 3 st., Traumatism stones 5 st.

Carcases	93..	Acute Peritonitis 1, Arthritis & Emaci- (197 stones) ation 1, Arthritis & Oedema 1, Emaciation & Ill-bled 2, Emaciation & Oedema 40, Gangrene 1, Generalised Oedema 12, Icterus 4, Ill-bled 6, Immaturity 2, Mastitis 1, Moribund 9, Pregnancy Toxaemia 1, Py- aemia 2, Septic Mastitis 2, Severe Bruising 1, Traumatism & Generalised Oedema 5.
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Pigs

Kidneys	3	Retention Cysts 1, Nephritis 2.
Livers	7	Ascaris Lumbricoides 7.
Lungs	18	Emphysema 1, Pneumonia 17.
Plucks	2	Pleurisy & Pericarditis 2.
Carcases	10	Acute Swine Erysipelas 1, Gangrene 1, Moribund 2, Pathological Oedema 2, Pyæmia 1, Swine Erysipelas 1, Pyrexia 1, Septic Arthritis 1.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOOD ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED IN PAST EIGHT YEARS

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Cattle (ex.cows)	1,260	1,463	1,438	1,065	1,129	1,385	1,183	1,091
Cows	200	315	348	358	317	318	332	269
Calves	278	384	311	251	256	358	351	417
Sheep & Lambs	3,630	4,522	4,737	5,762	5,809	6,828	6,048	6,606
Pigs	1,235	2,815	1,859	1,354	1,056	411	487	388
Total ..	6,609	9,499	8,693	8,790	8,567	9,300	8,401	8,771

PUBLIC CLEANSING

REFUSE COLLECTION

Whilst for a number of years now, the collection of refuse throughout the district's 130 square miles, has been on a weekly basis in the more densely populated areas, it has nevertheless been the Council's policy to eventually re-model the cleansing service to incorporate the entire district in a weekly service. This was realised at the end of this year after a comprehensive re-organisation of the cleansing service.

In order to reduce travelling time and vehicle running costs to the respective disposal points, steps were taken to increase the loading capacity in the two fore and aft tipping vehicles, by installing hydraulic compressor plates, which has done this quite effectively.

Because of the limited tipping space existing at the present time, rapidly being filled, and the increasing difficulty in acquiring further suitable sites, controlled tipping has become even more important. It was therefore essential to purchase mechanical aid to be employed full

time so that every available tipping space could be used and at the same time, trim the tip faces, covering regularly with top soil. The Weatherill tractor with bucket and a detachable dozer blade bought for this purpose has executed the work very satisfactorily indeed.

Reference was made to the need for a 25.0 cubic yards refuse vehicle in the previous year's report. This was delivered on the 22nd July.

The erection of property without fireplaces on phase II and III at Newbiggin Hall Estate, provides a new problem in that part of the district. One ash bin of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet capacity provided to each house or flat is found to be inadequate in some cases, where no provision is made for excess rubbish normally burnt. The fact that some householders are able to cope with the situation, does not go unnoticed.

The paper sack system of refuse collection is gaining popularity in a number of cleansing services throughout the country.

Wherever possible, the use of the paper sack held in a special free standing wire cage is encouraged. Due to enquiries received from time to time, it is obvious that in some circumstances the occupier can see that this method of storing refuse has distinct advantages. Six houses, each in different parts of the district have been provided with appliances of this type with apparent success, although it is realized that before one can experience any appreciable saving in labour costs a much larger experimental scheme would have to be invoked, involving some 250 or more properties.

Whilst there is no specific undertaking by the local authority to keep the countryside free of litter, it is nevertheless desirable that the district should be maintained in a tidy state. We have therefore continued to collect household rubbish from washing machines to arm chairs and settees deposited from time to time on the verges of country lanes. The worst sites are undoubtedly those situated on the south east border of the district where deposits of unwanted household furnishings frequently recur.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

This service continues to carry out the Ministry of Health's recommendation to de-sludge domestic septic tanks every six months. The service is free of charge to those houses not having access to Council sewers.

The average cost per tank for carrying out this work throughout the year bearing in mind that the entire district is serviced sector by sector, is £1 13s. 6d. per tank.

The occasion does arise on farm premises where there is a septic tank which deals exclusively with waste matter in connection with farming. From time to time requests are received from farmers in this situation for the desludging of this tank at the same time the domestic tank is being serviced. In these instances a charge for labour and running costs is made.

VEHICLES

The following vehicles are employed on the service :—

CTY 579	Thorneycroft	1948	12 cu. yds.	Side loader.	Petrol
DNL 540	Karrier Bantam	1949	7 cu. yds.	„ „	„ engine
DJR 324	„ „	1950	7 cu. yds.	„ „	„ „

JNL 952	Shelvoke & Drewry	1955	18 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
PNL 140	Karrier Bantam	1959	7 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
RTY 550	Karrier Gamecock	1960	18 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine.
RJR 394	Thames Trader	1960	1,000 gallon.	Cesspool emptier. Diesel engine.
WNL 796	Karrier Bantam	1962	10 cu. yds.	Side loader. Diesel engine.
YTY 269	Shelvoke & Drewry	1963	25 cu. yds.	Rear loader fore and aft tipper. Diesel engine...

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal points are as follows :—

1. Brickyard Quarry, Ponteland.
2. Belsay Quarry.
3. Stobhill, Cheeseburn Grange.
4. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
5. Disused Sewage Works, Woolsington.
6. Mill Hill, Dinnington.

The life of the Mill Hill Quarry, which has been used for tipping over the past decade is rapidly drawing to a close. In view of this, negotiations have taken place with the National Coal Board to secure another site near the quarry, which though unfit for any agricultural purpose whatsoever, can be suitably used for depositing refuse, to bring it level with the surrounding fields.

Up to the present time, no charge has been made by the National Coal Board for the use of the Mill Hill site, although a rent for the new proposed tip is to be included in the agreement, at the moment being prepared, which is thought not to be unreasonable.

In the meanwhile the present tipping space is to be extended in order that the surrounding ground can be made level.

Whilst this for the time being takes care of the eastern extremities of the district, the same problem arises in Ponteland. It is therefore necessary to find an alternative site to the one at the Brickyard, and to this end, preliminary discussions have taken place with the owner of the disused gravel pit at Kirkley West Thorn. This is a site which would probably provide tipping space for a period of 10—15 years.

CLEANSING COSTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1964

Volume of refuse removed	50,319 cu. yds.
Estimated weight of refuse removed	10,948 tons.
Approximate average weight per house per annum	25.35 cwts.
Average volume per house per annum	5.83 cu. yds.
Average weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	21.26 cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (Refuse and salvage) and operation of septic tank emptying service	£33,280
Less income from salvage, trade refuse etc.	£3,141
Net Cleansing Cost	<u>£30,139</u>

Refuse collection and disposal cost per house per annum.. .. .	£3 9s. 10d.
Refuse collection and disposal cost per head of population	£1 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
Cost on Rates in the £	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

SALVAGE

The total amount of wastepaper salvaged during the year was 300 tons 4 cwts., an increase of 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons over the previous year. As this exceeded the maximum that the Thames Board Mills would accept, we had to resort, once again to selling wastepaper through other channels.

Although this was done at reduced prices, an additional sum of £444 16s. was recovered by this means.

Details of salvage disposed of :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	£	s.	d.
Wastepaper ..	300	4	0	2,418	17	0
Scrap Metal & Rags	10	10	0	216	13	6
	310	14	0	£2,635	10	6

WATER

The entire district, with the exception of three small privately owned supplies, is now served by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES

The three privately owned water supplies still in use serve parts of the Parishes of Belsay Ward 2, Capheaton and Matfen Ward 1. The sources of supply in two instances are land springs and in the third a bore-hole.

WATER SAHPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Premises	Type of Supply	Sample taken from	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.
Airmen's Mess, R.A.F. Station, Ouston	Mains	Tap	0
31 A.M.Q. R.A.F. Station, Ouston	"	"	0
27 Hadrian Crescent, R.A.F. Station, Ouston	"	"	3
Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Station, Ouston	"	"	0
Quarry House, Rudchester ..	Borehole	Tap in bathroom	0
" " " " " " " " " "	"	Tap in kitchen	0
" " " " " " " " " "	"	Outside tap	0
Middle Coldcoats, Ponteland	"	Tap in kitchen	0
" " " " " " " " " "	"	Collection chamber	0
Mount Huly, Capheaton ..	Land Spring	Tap in kitchen	90
" " " " " " " " " "	" "	Storage Tank	180+
Capheaton Village	" "	Standpipe	90
Toft Hill, Harnham	" "	Collection Chamber	0
Plessey Station Houses ..	Mains	4 gallon churn	0
" " " " " " " " " "	"	" "	0

I am indebted to Mr. S. G. Barrett, M.Sc., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., General Manager and Engineer, Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, for the following information :—

" The number of samples of filtered water examined at the Company's Throckley Laboratory during the year totalled 1,250 and apart from one, which was "satisfactory" all were of "Excellent" quality. In addition to the foregoing, 250 samples of water from the Warkworth Filter Plant were examined and all fell into the "excellent" category.

Samples taken from various points within the Castle Ward Area were also subject to bacteriological analysis with the following results.

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Classification</i>
Moot Law Reservoir	16	All excellent.
Harlow Hill Reservoir	15	"
Fenham Reservoir	10	"
Whalton Reservoir	2	"

Independent bacteriological analyses were also undertaken by some authorities receiving water supplies from the Company and out of a total number of 378 samples thus examined 345 were classified "Excellent", 14 "Satisfactory", 9 "Suspicious" and 10 "Unsatisfactory" results, examination of check samples taken both by the Company and the Authorities concerned proved the water to be of "Excellent" quality and the original classification attributable to casual contamination of the sample point.

The following new water pipes were laid in Castle Ward Rural District during the year.

Woolsington Parish	670 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	1,507 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
	630 lin. yards of 6" dia. pipes.
	1 lin. yard of 8" dia. pipes.
Ponteland Parish	297 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
	381 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.
Heddon Parish	33 lin. yards of 3" dia. pipes.
Stannington Parish	5 lin. yards of 4" dia. pipes.

The following premises etc., were connected during the year :—

OPEN SUPPLY

<i>Address</i>	<i>Nature of Supply</i>	<i>No. of Branches</i>
W. Rutherford, Hawkwell Farm, Stamfordham	House	1
R. Carse & Son, North Side, Stamfordham	Permanent building branch	1

METER SUPPLY

Castle Ward R.D.C., Belsay	Public Convenience	1
R. H. Gregory, West Low House Farm, Whalton	Farm	1
Belsay Estate Office, O.S. 89 Burnside, Belsay	Trough	1
J. G. Ord, Corneyside Farm, Matfen	Farm	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

It is the responsibility of all Local Authorities to ensure that their district is kept free from rat and mice infestations.

Details of the number of properties visited and the treatments applied are shown in the table under this heading.

To encourage the reporting of infestations in or around dwelling houses, the Council Policy, in line with many other local authorities, is to carry out the work free of charge. This practice has contributed in no small measure to the present control of the situation.

When rat or mice infestations are found to exist on business premises, the occupier may do one of three things.

(a) To carry out the treatment himself ; (b) engage a private firm ; (c) request the Council to do the work. In the latter case a sum of £38 7s. 6d. was received for this service.

There were 113 rat infestations in dwellinghouses against 78 for the previous year. The increase was largely due to occupied and unoccupied houses on housing development schemes. There is no doubt that the rats are attracted by scraps of food which are unfortunately thrown around by workmen during their mealtimes. Although the attention of the building contractors and site foremen have been directed to this, the practice still continues.

The Council are members of the Mid-Northumberland and South-Northumberland Workable Area (Rodent Control) Group Committees. These meetings are held twice a year and are attended by officials from the Public Health Department.

Apart from discussing matters applicable to the districts represented on the Committees, useful and instructive talks are, from time to time, given by Officers of the Ministry. Once a year, a general meeting of all the Workable Area Committees is held in the Ministry offices at Kenton Bar.

	Type of Property				Total
	Non-Agricultural			Agri-cultural	
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)		
No. of Properties in District .	38	8427	284	461	9210
No. of Properties inspected ..	34	269	95	159	557
Total Inspections including Re-inspections	197	316	138	186	837
No. of Properties found to be Infested and Treated by Local Authority :					
(a) Rats	6	113	7	5	131
(b) Mice	—	41	5	—	46
Total treatments carried out including Re-treatments ..	17	181	18	6	222
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	—	2	—	—	2

Disinfestation of Premises :

Beetles	10
Bugs	1
Ptinus Tectus.. ..	1
Wasps Nests	18
Woodworm	1
Silver Fish	1

HOUSING

New Houses Completed during the year.	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	12	Nil.	12
(b) By any other Housing Authority..	92	Nil	92
(c) By private persons	Nil.	216	216

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Population	No. of Houses	CATEGORIES				
		1	2	3	4	5
Registrar ..	8,427	7,198	439	671	59	60
General's ..		85.41%	5.20%	7.96%	.70%	.71%
Estimate 28,220.						
Total number of category 4 & 5 houses on which action has been taken.						
action has been taken					39	54
No. of houses against which action still has to be taken					20	6
					2.37%	.07%

UNFIT HOUSES

For some considerable time, there has been concern over the number of dwellings throughout the country which lack certain amenities that have long since been regarded as essential. Such amenities include a bath, hot water system and a W.C. There is clear evidence of this as a result of the 1961 census which at that time showed some four million homes without a bath and hot water system.

To improve the standard of housing more quickly, which it is generally accepted, that the Discretionary and Standard grants have failed to do, new legislation is being prepared. In some instances this will give compulsory power to local authorities, for the improvement of dwellings not having what is in this day and age, regarded as the minimum requirements for a decent standard of housing accommodation.

In this district approximately 8% of the total number of houses are so affected, being without a bath and hot water system. It is however fair to say that the owners of property in the area have taken advantage of the Council's policy in making available discretionary grants towards the improvement of their property.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

HOUSING ACT, 1949, HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954. RENT ACT, 1957. HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958. (SECTIONS 30—33), HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

Works of improvement on 25 dwelling houses were completed during the year aided by discretionary grants. The improvements to these properties made possible by such financial assistance, included the installation to each, of a bathroom, hot and cold water system, inside W.C., a drainage system with means of sewage disposal.

The addition of these amenities, together with increased natural lighting, in cases where this was required, brought these houses up to the standard required of any new dwelling house.

In all, 30 applications for discretionary grants were received during the year compared with 22 in 1962.

The average cost per house of carrying out improvement works as distinct from items of repair amounted to £1,143 9s. 0d.

The total number of houses improved under this scheme is 398.

	<i>Discretionary Grants</i>	<i>Standard Grants</i>
(a) Applications submitted to local authority during year..	32	7
(b) Applications rejected ..	—	—
(c) Applications withdrawn ..	—	—
(d) Applications approved ..	32	7
(e) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	416	29

STANDARD GRANTS

The maximum grant available under the Standard Grant scheme is £155. Whilst this may be adequate for the installation of the five amenities namely, hot water system, W.C., bath, washbasin and foodstore, little contribution is made towards the installation of private drainage systems.

There seems little doubt, that for this reason only 7 applications were made during the year as against 32 applications for the Discretionary Grant.

In all, 3 Standard Grants were completed for this same period.

HOUSING CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS 1925/32. REGULATION 31

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation	26
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action	94
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :—	
	(a) serving notices requiring the execution of the work ..	—
	(b) making demolition or closing orders	—
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works ..	—
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ..	—
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	—
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ..	—
8.	No. of houses demolished	2

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Complaints of pollution of the atmosphere from pit heaps in Brunswick are referred to in Dr. M. Hopper's report. There is a possibility that this material will be required for the development of the Woolsington Air Port. It may be therefore that in the not too distant future that both the Brunswick Village and Hazlerigg spoil banks will be completely removed.

No other complaints have been received from any other part of the district.

An area in the South West part of the district has been selected to form a Smoke Control Area, but unfortunately due to a shortage of gas coke and the limited supply of premium fuels, the implementation of this has been postponed. The Minister on the 24th May, 1963, stated "that in view of rapid technological changes in the gas industry affecting the future production of gas coke an immediate review of current arrangements under the Clean Air Act 1956 was being instituted."

The atmospheric deposit gauge which has been sited at Brunswick Village for many years was removed to Heddon-on-the-Wall.

This appliance has proved to be a useful yard stick in comparing the results with surrounding districts. It has now shown that Heddon possesses a cleaner atmosphere than Brunswick.

The Council are members of the Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities Clean Air Committee, the North Eastern Regional Advisory Committee and the Sub Technical Committees, which provide useful machinery for the discussion and formation of policy towards the general improvement of atmospheric pollution.

BUILDING BYELAWS — PART IVa — SMOKE PREVENTION

The above byelaw adopted by this Council in 1957, makes it obligatory to install in a new building heating and cooking appliances which are suitably designed for burning one of the following fuels :—

- (a) Gas.
- (b) Electricity.
- (c) Coke or Anthracite.

Exception is made in the case of furnaces to which Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956, applies.

The Coal Utilisation Council Regional Office, at 18 Saville Row, Newcastle upon Tyne, where all modern approved solid fuel burning appliances are exhibited for inspection by the public, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for free advice on the selection installation and operation of such appliances.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Three complaints of noise from lawn mowers were received. In all three cases the machine involved was of the rotary type.

Visits to the offenders resulted in the alteration in the time of day when grass cutting was undertaken. This proved satisfactory to the complainants.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 47 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review :-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	36	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	76	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	47	112	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	12	—	—	—

The following report has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor Mr. G. E. Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Ingoe

Work commenced in April, 1963, on the provision of a modern drainage system to serve 18 properties in this hamlet. This scheme included the construction of a treatment works, consisting of a septic tank, biological filter and humus tank, together with 650 yards of 4" and 6" sewers together with 9 manholes.

The works were complete in October, 1963, at an estimated cost of £7,627.

2. Ponteland & Darras Hall (Medburn Extension)

The work of laying 2,257 lineal yards of sewers, together with the construction of 23 manholes to serve 27 properties at Medburn has been completed.

The estimated cost of the works approximately £10,000.

3. Stannington Village

The contract for the complete re-construction of the drainage system, together with modern treatment works to serve the village of Stannington was substantially completed before the end of the year.

This scheme included for the separation of as much surface water from the system as possible, and to achieve this the Council agreed to pay approximately £1,700 to the Northumberland County Council as Highway Authority in order to exclude from the public sewers all surface water falling on County highways.

New sewers were laid to serve the western end of the village, including the site of the proposed new School.

The treatment works comprise 1 No. upward flow sedimentation tank, 1 No. filter and 2 No. humus tanks, together with compressed air ejector, cold digestion tank and sludge drying beds.

The estimated cost of the scheme approximately £11,000.

4. Netherton Training School

The Council has agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of modernising the sewage treatment works serving the Netherton Training School on the understanding that when the works have been completed to a satisfactory standard these will then be adopted by the District Council for future maintenance.

These works have been re-designed by Messrs. Waterhouse and Rounthwaite acting on behalf of the Board of Management of the Training School, and will consist of 1 No. upward flow sedimentation tank, 1 No. biological filter and 1 No. upward flow humus tank, together with a pumping station and sludge drying beds.

The estimated cost of this scheme is under £10,000 and the probable amount of contribution to be made by the District Council is £3,000.

5. Heddon Hall Sewage Works

The District Council has taken over the maintenance of Heddon Hall Sewage Works consequent upon the improvement of these by a private landlord.

A grant of £500 was paid towards the cost of this scheme.

6. Ryal Sewage Works

The District Council has taken over the maintenance of Ryal Sewage Works consequent upon the improvement of these by a private landlord.

A grant of £850 was paid towards the cost of this scheme.

7. At the 31st December, 1963, the Council controlled 22 sewage treatment works, as follows :—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Belsay | 12. Milbourne (Belsay Road) |
| 2. Berwick Hill | 13. Milbourne (Hall Farm) |
| 3. Capheaton | 14. Milbourne (Village) |
| 4. Dalton | 15. Ogle |
| 5. Fenwick | 16. Ponteland (Collingwood |
| 6. Harlow Hill | 17. Ryal Cottages) |
| 7. Heddon Hall | 18. Stamfordham |
| 8. Heddon-on-the-Wall | 19. Stannington Station Road |
| 9. Ingoe | 20. Stannington Village |
| 10. Kirkheaton | 21. Wallridge |
| 11. Matfen (Standing Stone) | 22. Whalton |

together with 4 pumping stations through which sewage is passed to either the Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board or to the Ouseburn Sewer of the Newcastle Corporation.

The following table gives an indication of the mileage of the various foul and surface water sewers and pumping mains that are maintained by the Rural District Council :—

LOCATION	Separate Systems		Com- bined	Pumping Mains	No. of Manholes
	Foul	Surface Water			
	Length of Sewers in Lin. Yards					Lin. Yd.
BELSAY			733		11
BERWICK HILL ..			467		7
BRUNTON PARK ..	6661	6921			232
BURN CLOSE			3220		39
CAPHEATON			392		6
DALTON			157		3
DARRAS HALL ..	21821	19967			393
DINNINGTON	9083	4936		3387	67
FENWICK	340				5
FRENCHMAN'S ROW ..			600		5
HAZLERIGG	279	500	3015		55
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL		677	5415	150	91
KENTON BANK FOOT..			2600		32
KIRKHEATON			400		16
MILBOURNE	476				7
OGLE			953		11
PONTELAND	8081	6231	7641	3163	451
RYAL	362				6
STAMFORDHAM ..	449	372	3855	30	75
STANNINGTON.. ..			7523	727	57
STANDING STONE ..	175				5
WHALTON	103	103	883		12
WOOLSINGTON ..	3166	535	18657		362
TOTALS	50942	40242	54711	7457	1936
Equivalent Mileage of each type ..	29.00	22.81	31.10	4.24	

TOTAL MILEAGE OF ALL TYPES — 87.15.

8. Disposal of Sewage to Neighbouring Authorities

(a) Gosforth Urban District Council

864 Houses at Brunton Park and Melton Park discharge sewage to a sewer belonging to the Gosforth U.D.C.

(b) Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewerage Board

The total number of premises now draining to the East and West Pumping Stations at Dinnington and from Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village, to the Longbenton U.D.C., Sewer at Seaton Burn School was 1,215 at the 31st December, 1963.

(c) Newburn Urban District Council

No new connections were made to the Sewers draining to this Authority during the year ending 31st December, 1963.

(d) City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.

(i) BRUNTON PARK

390 Houses discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer.

(ii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE

584 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Ouseburn Sewer via the Council's Trunk Sewer from Brunton Bridge to Point 'Z' at Fawdon.

(iii) NEWBIGGIN HALL ESTATE (PHASE 1A)

904 Houses and Flats discharge by gravity to the Black Swine Sewer at Denton Burn. These are mainly properties built by the Newcastle Corporation.

(iv) PONTELAND, DARRAS HALL, WOOLSINGTON MAIN DRAINAGE

Sewage discharges by gravity and pumping to the head of the Corporation's Ouseburn Sewer, the present average rate of flow being approximately 110 cubic feet per minute.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED — PRIVY CONVERSIONS

There have been 24 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places :—

Startup Farmhouse, Ponteland.
 Centre Cottage, North Dissington.
 South Carter Moor Farmhouse, Ponteland.
 Dove-cote Farm Cottage, Clifton, Morpeth.
 5 North Side, Matfen.
 6 North Side, Matfen.
 Group of three terrace houses, Fenwick, Stamfordham.
 1 North Side, Stamfordham.
 1 Lakeside Cottages, Capheaton.
 Rose Cottage, Stannington, Morpeth.
 Church Cottage, Stannington, Morpeth.
 East Cottage, North Dissington.
 West Cottage, North Dissington.
 Fairspring Farm Cottage, Matfen.
 6 Richley Terrace, Ingoc, Matfen.
 Cottage, Dalton Hill Head, Dalton.
 North Lodge, Military Road, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
 14 Collingwood Cottages, Ponteland.
 Hawkwell House, Hawkwell, Stamfordham.
 No. 1 North East Mason Farm Cottage.
 No. 2 North East Mason Farm Cottage.
 Cottage, Leaguer House Farm, Stamfordham.

These were carried out as part of the improvement of the respective dwellings under the Housing Acts 1949/59, three being Standard Grants and the remainder Discretionary Grants.

	No. of Inspections during yr.	No. of defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	No. of Satutory Notices Served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects ..	—	74	51	51	—
Defective Food Store ..	471	17	17	17	—
Dampness ..	—	81	76	73	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ..	31	5	5	5	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient ..	52	21	21	21	—
Defective ..	—	7	7	7	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient ..	—	6	6	6	—
Defective ..	73	18	18	18	—
Food Premises ..	618	7	—	7	—
Slaughter Houses ..	512	4	—	4	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ..	27	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ..	161	9	—	9	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ..	14	8	—	8	—
Atmospheric Pollution ..	31	1	1	1	—
	1990	258	202	227	—

CONCLUSION

To the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Works Committee and to Doctor M. Hopper, I express my thanks for the support rendered me throughout the year, and to all other Chief Officers and Officials for their co-operation.

I also record my appreciation of the satisfactory manner in which the duties of the Department have been carried out by Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. W. E. Jobson and the clerical work by Mrs. J. Docherty and Miss G. Douglas.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

